

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 11 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE2004/002779 without prejudice.

Please add new claims as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (new): A method for manufacturing hollow blades, comprises:

providing at least a first element, a second element, and a third element, an inner side of each of the first and second elements having a planar recess;

arranging the first, second and third elements one over another in a sandwich-type structure;

joining the first, second and third elements to one another at least in portions thereof by diffusion welding;

superplastically deforming the sandwich-type structure via an inflation processes, such that the first element forms a first outer wall of a hollow blade to be manufactured, the second element forms a second outer wall of the hollow blade to be manufactured, and the third element forms a middle element of the hollow blade to be manufactured which extends in between the first and second outer walls, and a portion of the third element is spaced apart from the planar recesses.

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the inner side of the first element faces one side of the third element, and the inner side of the second element faces an opposite side of

the third element.

Claim 14 (new): The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the planar recesses extend over a portion of the inner sides of the first element and of the second element., such that a middle section of the first element and a middle section of the second element has a smaller material thickness than lateral sections of the first and second elements respectively.

Claim 15 (new): The method as recited in claim 14, wherein, between the middle section and the lateral sections of each of the first and second elements, the respective recesses have a continuous or stepless transitional profile.

Claim 16 (new): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein, in cross section, the continuous or stepless transitional profile has a circular or elliptical form.

Claim 17 (new): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the recesses are introduced into the inner sides of the first element and of the second element, respectively, by milling.

Claim 18 (new): The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the pressure required for diffusion welding is supplied such that, during the diffusion welding process, the first element and the second element are pressurized in the area of the or of each continuous or stepless transitional profile such that, following the diffusion welding in the area of the or of each transitional profile, a groove space is formed.

Claim 19 (new): The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the pressure is supplied by a mechanical press.